

NAVAL AVIATION ENTERPRISE

The Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE) includes over 200,000 Sailors, Marines, and career civilians; 3800 aircraft; 11 aircraft carriers and executes a budget in excess of \$40 billion. The primary function of the naval enterprise is focusing these resources to provide this nation with the capability to operate from the seas, unencumbered by host nation restrictions, and to deter or defeat forces threatening our national interest.

The NAE Strategic Plan (January 2008) provides the roadmap of strategic objectives and priorities to guide our actions and decisions through 2030. The execution of this plan requires enterprise collaborations to address strategic gaps in the near term, and over the horizon. The

challenges facing the NAE include: Carrier Inventory, airframe capacity, weapons system lethality, legacy platform funding support, the affordability of future capabilities, and the health of our workforce.

In sum, the Navy and Marine Corps are the nation's first responders and naval aviation serves as its centerpiece. Naval aviation faces significant challenges on the fields of fire and from fiscal realities. The NAE is committed to efficiently delivering the right force with the right readiness at the right time—today and tomorrow—and the fiscal challenges to achieve this reality will be addressed cooperatively.